

## SYNOPSIS OF THE TIPULID GENUS BITTACOMORPHA

BY CHARLES W. JOHNSON.

This interesting genus is very widely represented by the more common and conspicuous species *B. clavipes* Fabr., which extends throughout Eastern North America from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains. All the records from the Pacific Slope undoubtedly refer to *B. occidentalis* Aldrich (Psyche VII, p. 201, 1895) and Osten Sacken (Psyche VII, p. 230, 1895). The *B. sackenii* described by von Röder from Nevada (Wiener Entom. Zeit., Heft 8, p. 230, 1890) has also been recorded from Seattle, Washington, by Aldrich and re-described by him in Psyche VII, p. 200. A specimen from the mountains of North Carolina adds another species to our fauna.

## TABLE OF SPECIES

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|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Tibiæ annulated with snow white near the base.   | 2                         |
| Tibiæ not annulated, all the metatarsi white at the tip instead of the base.  |                           |
|   | <i>sackenii</i> Röder.    |
| 2. Metatarsi more or less swollen.  | 3                         |
| Metatarsi not swollen in the slightest degree, nor annulated at the base, and only those of the anterior tipped with white. |                           |
|   | <i>jonesi</i> n. sp.      |
| 3. Dorsum of thorax deep velvety black with a white median line.  | <i>clavipes</i> Fabr.     |
| Dorsum of thorax shining black, the white median line wanting.  |                           |
|   | <i>occidentalis</i> Aldr. |

*Bittacomorpha jonesi* n. sp.

♂ Head blackish, front and face covered with a silvery white pollinose; antennæ about 4mm. in length, the two basal joints brown, the remainder black and strongly pubescent; palpi and proboscis yellowish. Dorsum of the thorax shining black, the remainder of the thorax including the scutellum dull yellow, slightly darker on the pleuræ; humeri, a lateral stripe extending to the base of the wing and pleuræ silvery white pollinose. Abdomen clavate, black, shining, posterior margins of the second, third and fourth segments, and the genitalia yellowish, the claspers black. Coxæ light yellow, base of the femora brown

becoming gradually black toward the end; tibiæ black, annulated with white near the base; anterior metatarsi tipped with white, the others entirely black; the second and third joints of the tarsi white, the terminal joints black; halteres dark brown. Wings grayish hyaline, the relative length of the second submarginal cell the same as in *B. clavipes*. Length of body 8mm., of wing 7 mm., and of the posterior legs 15mm.

One specimen from Mt. Taxoway, North Carolina, at an elevation of between 3000 and 5000 ft. Collected in August, 1924, by Mr. Frank M. Jones of Wilmington, Delaware, to whom I dedicate this interesting species.

VARYING ABUNDANCE OF CERTAIN BUTTERFLIES. Many collectors of butterflies in New England have noticed the remarkable scarcity of *Anosia plexippus* during the last five or six summers, but little or no mention of this phenomenon has appeared in print. Since 1899 I have found it impossible to obtain supplies of larvæ for class-room use, where previously the species had swarmed. In Alstead, N. H., the almost total disappearance of the species was remarked even by non-entomological observers. In 1899 it was common; in 1900 hardly a specimen could be found. Last year a diligent search revealed four of them in a region where they used to abound.

Current comment among members of the Cambridge Entomological Club suggests that *Aglaïs milberti* is rapidly increasing in abundance, particularly in eastern Massachusetts. My own observations seem to support this idea.

*Laertias philenor* appears occasionally in great numbers in the neighborhood of Boston, but after a season or two of plentifulness it vanishes. Along the southern border of New England, *Papilio thoas* and *Callidryas eubule* come and go. The range of each species widens and shrinks and widens again in response to certain changing conditions, but our knowledge of those conditions is very fragmentary. It would be interesting to compare a large series of observations, and perhaps such a comparison would help us to a better understanding of the struggle for existence among the butterflies.—W. L. W. FIELD.